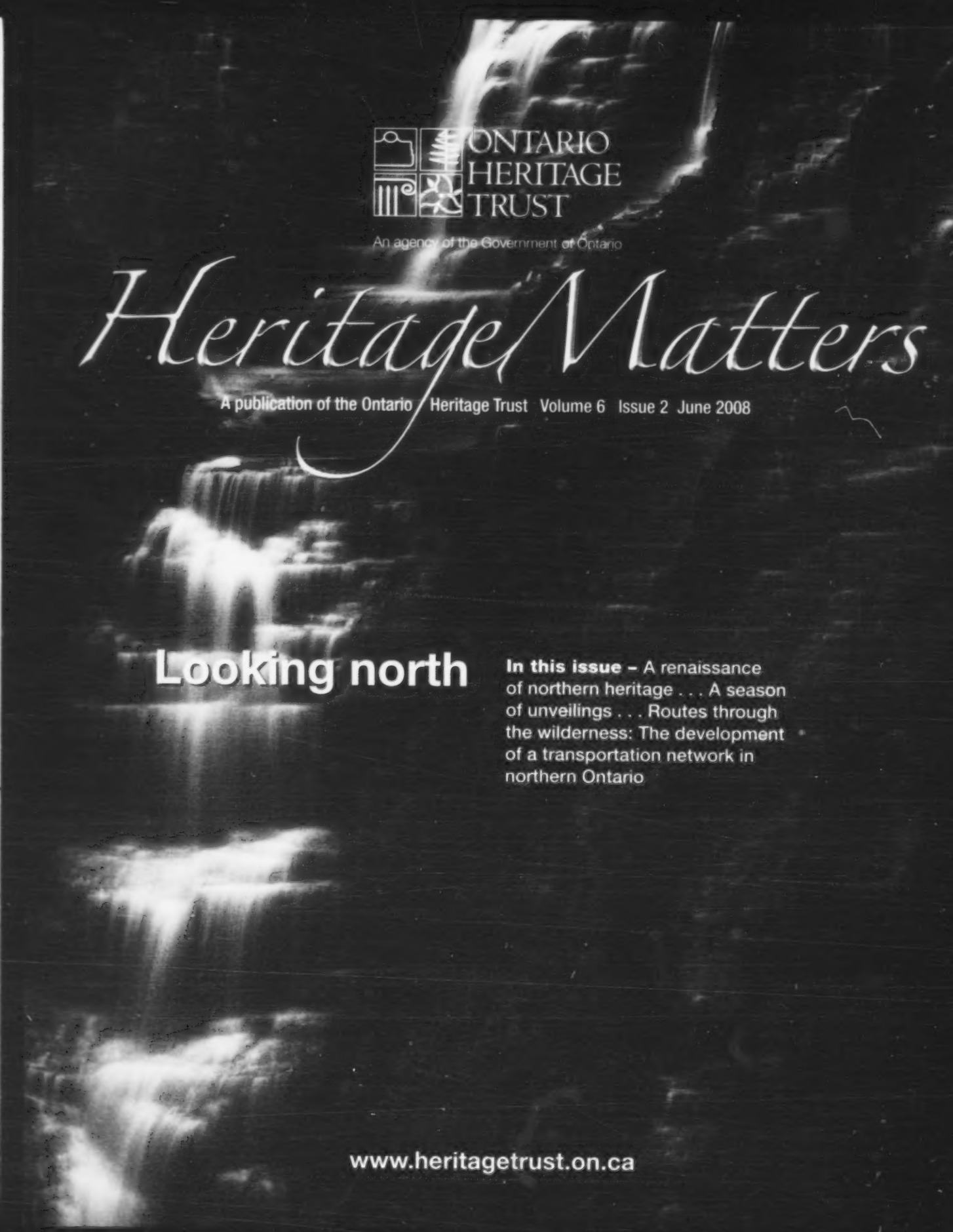

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Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust Volume 6 Issue 2 June 2008

Looking north

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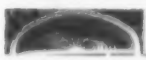

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Photo courtesy of Gilbert & Associates, Toronto

I was born in downtown Toronto. As a young man, I attended Earl Grey Public School, McMaster University and Osgoode Hall Law School. When I began my career as a lawyer and then entered politics, my travelling was largely confined to southern Ontario. I am embarrassed now by how little I knew about, or appreciated, the northern reaches of this province.

It was a wonderful experience for me – as Ontario's 26th Lieutenant-Governor – to tour Ontario's north. Wherever I went, I was warmly welcomed by the mayor, a red carpet and many smiling faces. During those tours, I visited hospitals, schools and town halls, unveiled plaques, toured museums and art galleries, spoke to groups large and small, and enjoyed myself immensely. I developed an instant admiration for these people who took such obvious pride in their accomplishments and those of the generations before them.

So, it is with pleasure that I invite you to explore this issue of *Heritage Matters*. As Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, I can tell you that our mandate encompasses all parts of this rich, diverse and vast province. In addition to Trust-owned properties throughout the north, we recognize people and their communities in other ways. Through the Provincial Plaque Program, we have erected plaques celebrating the people, places and events that helped form northern Ontario. The Heritage Community Recognition Program also honours individuals and groups from many communities – including Englehart, Johnson Township, Kapuskasing, Schreiber, Temagami and Callandar – for their work in heritage preservation. And, most recently, the Trust's successful Doors Open Ontario program has taken root in communities across the north – including Red Lake, the Tri-Towns, Thunder Bay, Kenora, Dryden and Sault Ste. Marie.

When I sat down to draft this message, I first read the articles you will find here. They reminded me of the good times I had on my travels through the north – the spectacular natural scenery and landforms, the compelling architecture, the warm and welcoming people. I hope you will enjoy reading these stories as I did.

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Cover photo: Kakebeka Falls, Thunder Bay.
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Heritage Matters

Heritage Matters is published in English and French and has a combined circulation of 10,500. Digital copies now available on our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca

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Produced by the Ontario Heritage Trust ...an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture

Editor: Gordon Pim
Graphic Designer: Manuel Oliveira

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ISSN 1198-2454 (Print)
ISSN 1911-446X (PDF, Online)

08/08

Ontario

A renaissance of northern heritage

By Thomas Wicks

Heritage is finding new life in northwestern Ontario. From Thunder Bay to Kenora, the north is experiencing a new appreciation of its heritage resources and using them to enhance communities and celebrate the region's unique history in the growth of the province.

After railway development connected this once-isolated area to the rest of the province at the end of the 19th century, the abundant natural resources attracted industry, which turned work camps and villages into towns and cities. Over time, the area has taken advantage of its natural beauty and developed its tourism sector as well as retained its traditional resource-based economy. In revitalizing the region's communities, heritage – both natural and cultural – has begun to play a key role in connecting the area's past to its present and conveying that history to residents and tourists alike.

Thunder Bay's Tourist Pagoda

Thunder Bay's Tourist Pagoda, built in 1909, is such an example. Built to the designs of local architect H. Russell Halton, the pagoda was part of a publicity campaign launched by the town of Port Arthur (later renamed Thunder Bay) to promote the city to tourists. At that time, Thunder Bay was a transportation terminal of docks and stations for Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific railways (CNR and CPR), as well as passenger ships. The "publicity Pagoda" located near the railway station was seen as a way of encouraging travellers to visit the growing community. Recalling the eclectic architectural motifs and forms used in English gardens and parks, the mushroom-shaped structure has a distinct green ogee roof. The heritage value of the structure was commemorated by the City of Thunder Bay, who designated it under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1979. In 1986, the building was designated a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada. The Ontario Heritage Trust has held a heritage conservation easement on this property since 1992. Now, almost 100 years since it was built, the pagoda is a part of our heritage that continues to fulfil its original role in providing tourists with information on Thunder Bay and the surrounding area.

The CNR station in the Town of Fort Frances, built in 1913, reflects the importance of the railway in the development of this border community. No longer used as a station, the building still holds value to the community as a volunteer bureau and a provincial constituency office. There is a strong desire on the part of the community to see the property preserved to ensure that it continues to perform an important role in the community.

CNR Station, Fort Frances

The Town of Kenora had the foresight to retain their 1898 post office and turn it into municipal offices back in 1980. This task was carried out with the aid of a provincial heritage grant. The building was able to retain its role as a gathering place for the community, thus keeping an important heritage building in use. For 10 years previously, the building had been vacant and was threatened with demolition. The fact that it was saved and put to new use emphasizes the role heritage buildings can play in defining their communities.

The Town of Sioux Lookout – three hours northwest of Thunder Bay – is using its 1911 CNR station as a stepping-off point toward revitalizing its downtown. The importance of this building in the community is so great that its restoration is regarded as a means of transforming the entire town. Sioux Lookout's economic development officer, Florence Bailey, says that the station was identified in numerous studies as "the anchor of the downtown core." When originally built, the station sustained the community – providing jobs, transportation, communication and the delivery of goods. VIA Rail still makes regular stops at the station; large crowds of locals gather to greet and welcome passengers as they pass through. The unique history of this station has provided the impetus to reinstate the building as a community hub and economic catalyst; the community has established an economic development commission

FEATURE STORY

to oversee the project. The municipality believes that its preservation is vital in providing a focal point for residents in the community. In turn, travellers may be encouraged to stay longer and discover what the area has to offer.

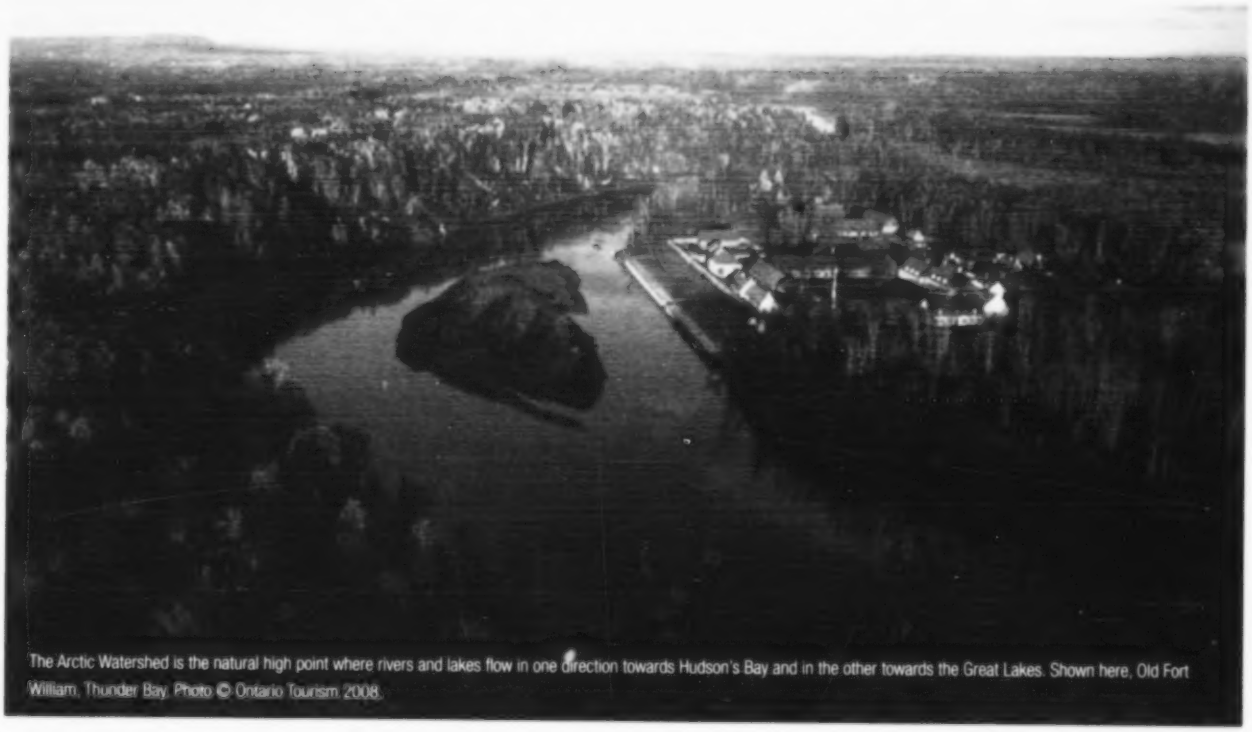
This renaissance of northern heritage continues to shape Ontario in unique and profound ways. These examples highlight the way in which heritage buildings act as stimulators of civic pride and urban redevelopment. Just as these structures reflect their respective communities' past and early prosperity, they can continue to provide a place for the community to gather, while acting as generators for future revitalization.

Thomas Wicks is an Architectural Advisor – Special Projects with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Kenora Post Office

CNR Station, Sioux Lookout

ALONG THE ARCTIC WATERSHED



The Arctic Watershed is the natural high point where rivers and lakes flow in one direction towards Hudson's Bay and in the other towards the Great Lakes. Shown here, Old Fort William, Thunder Bay. Photo © Ontario Tourism 2008.

The Arctic Watershed follows an erratic course of some 2,200 kilometres (1,400 miles) across northern Ontario. It marks the point where rivers and streams in northern Ontario drain into Hudson's Bay, and the rivers, lakes and streams to the south drain into the Great Lakes. This unique natural phenomenon has also been a source of contention for centuries because it determined territorial boundaries.

As early as 1670, the area was under dispute. In that year, England's King Charles II granted the lands in the control of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), the region became known as Rupert's Land in honour of the King's cousin, Prince Rupert, the HBC's first governor. The French soon disputed the Company's claim to this vast territory and nearly drove the English out of the Bay in 1696. When the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht restored sovereignty of the region to Britain, it did not establish any definite limits between the territory of France and that of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fifty years later, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, France abandoned mainland North America for good.

A royal proclamation set forth the boundaries of the lands acquired from France that year. The continued existence of Rupert's Land was confirmed, and lands were set aside for use by their aboriginal inhabitants.

In September 1850, the Crown ordered into the Robinson-Superior Treaty with the Ojibwa of Lake Superior for much of the north shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior, identifying the Arctic Watershed as the southern boundary of the Hudson's Bay Company lands.

In 1857, a British parliamentary committee was formed to consider the advisability of renewing the Company's trade monopoly in the vast western regions and Rupert's Land. It was critical to establish this fact given the emerging importance of communication, defence and future settlement in the West.

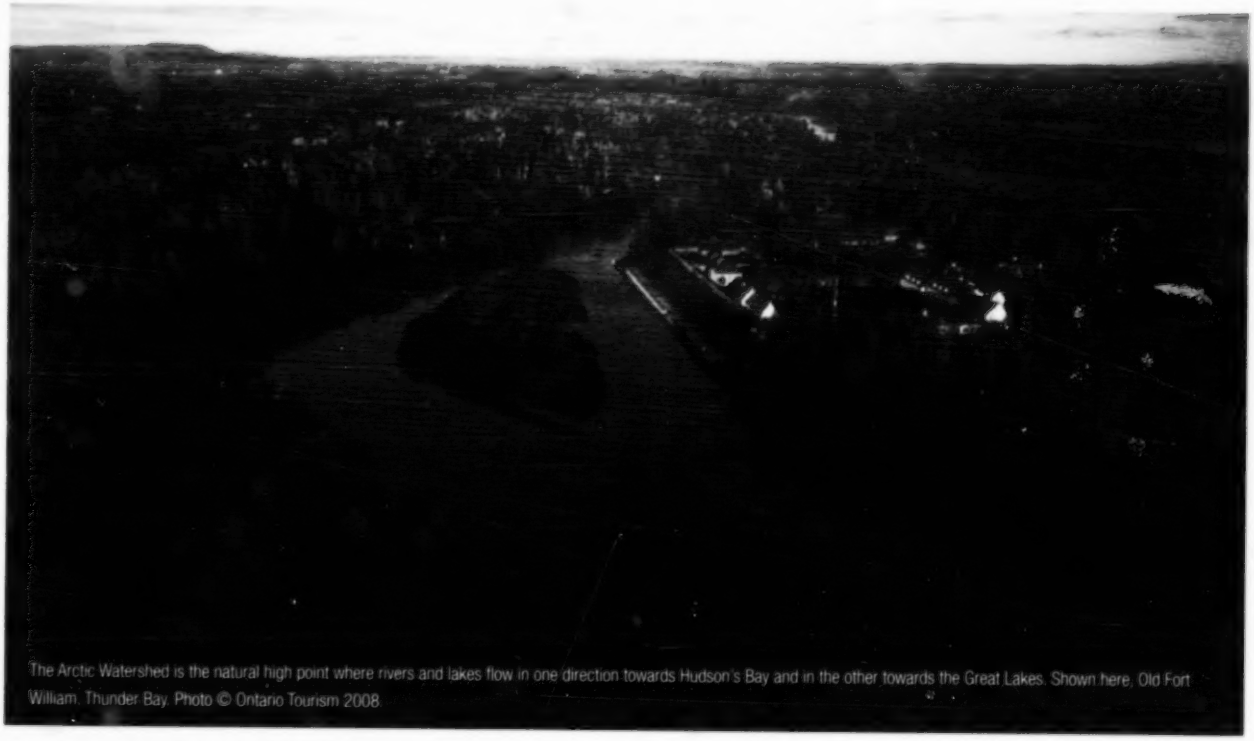
The framers of the *Rupert's Land Act* of 1868 – which facilitated the admission of Rupert's Land into the new Dominion of Canada – again avoided the issue of precise boundaries. The land was transferred to the Government of Canada in 1870, but the omission of any formal definition left opened the stage for the Ontario-Manitoba boundary dispute of 1883-84.

Eventually, after much back and forth, the question of the Ontario-Manitoba border was settled. In 1883, the case was referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Britain. Using the Arctic Watershed as its guide – its final role on the stage of Canada's political geography – the Committee established the Ontario-Manitoba border as it remains to this day.

In August 1969, two provincial plaques were unveiled to commemorate the Arctic watershed – one beside Highway 11 near Kenogami Lake and the other near Raith on Highway 17 in the District of Thunder Bay where the watershed again crosses the roadway. To explore the Trust's Online Plaque Guide, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

ALONG THE ARCTIC WATERSHED

By Gordon Pirn



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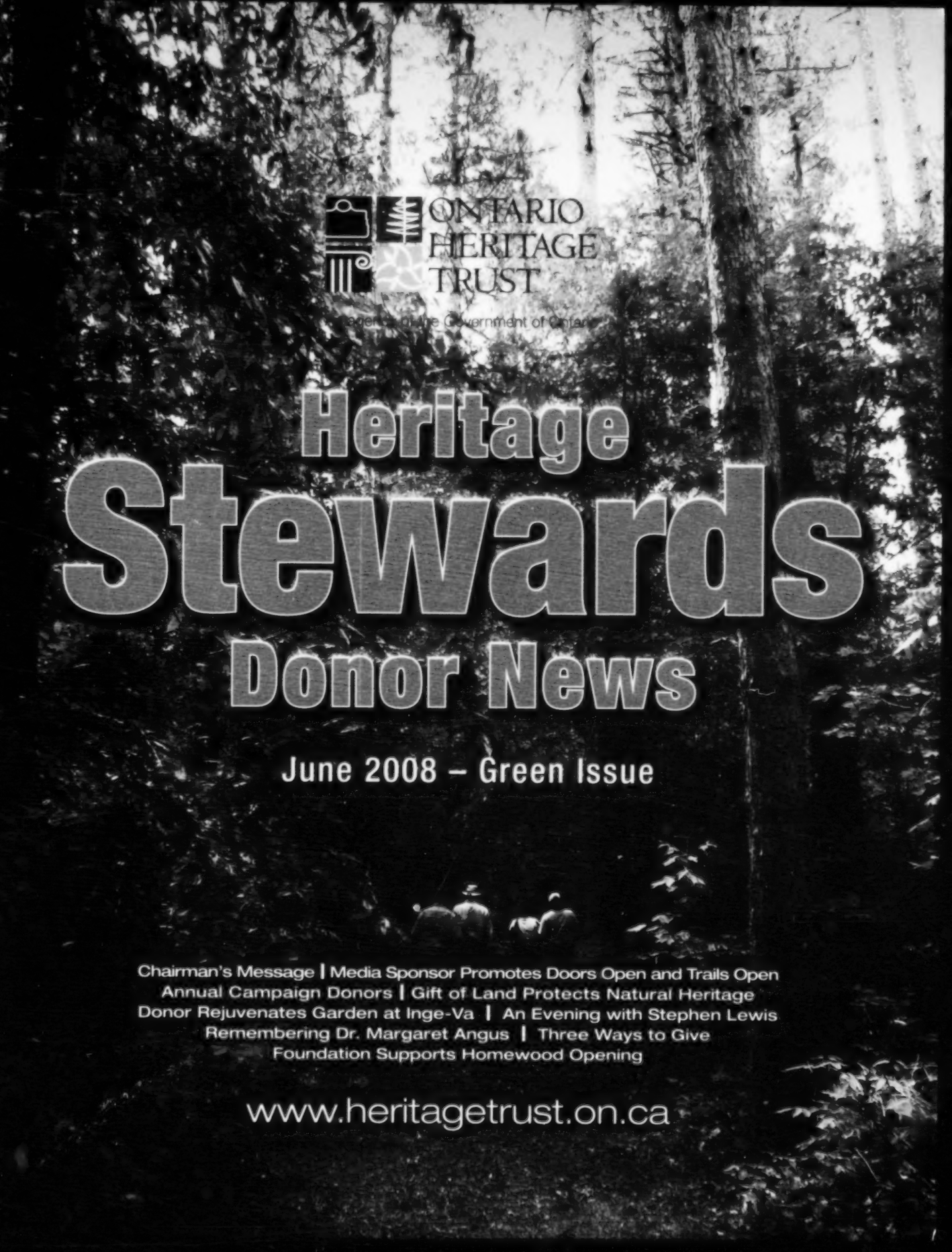
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Message from the Chairman

Backstage at the Winter Garden Theatre with Stephen Lewis in 6th January 2008. Photo: Tessa J. Buchan

With the arrival of spring, I am reminded of American humorist Mark Twain's comment that one should "buy land; they are not making any more." The second part of that remark speaks to a philosophy we embrace here at the Trust. Over the years, we have been the recipient of several donations marked for the purchase of significant natural heritage properties. The Trust also accepts donations of property, and we use our legislated tools to enter into partnership agreements to protect others.

We do not do this alone. Without our donors and sponsors, we could not acquire and steward our natural heritage properties, open our historic sites to the public, erect provincial plaques across Ontario, or administer our successful community outreach programs, including Doors Open Ontario, Trails Open Ontario and the Young Heritage Leaders program.

This year marks the beginning of the Ontario Heritage Trust's fifth decade. As the province's lead heritage agency, we always seem to be looking forward – and backward – at the same time. Moving into our 41st year, I would like to thank those donors and sponsors who have made a difference for us in the past. With your support, we will continue our work – still looking backward, and still moving forward.

The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Media Sponsor Promotes Doors Open and Trails Open

George Brown House during Doors Open Toronto

Each year, thousands of visitors learn about and experience our diverse heritage first-hand through the Ontario Heritage Trust's popular Doors Open Ontario and Trails Open Ontario programs. The success of both programs is due in part to the generous support provided by the Trust's media sponsor, *The Globe and Mail*.

Doors Open Ontario has proven its appeal over the years. Nearly 2.5 million visits have been made to heritage sites since the program began in 2002, and it has seen a dramatic increase in the number of community events – from 17 in its first year to 54 in 2008. Building on this success, the Trust launched Trails Open Ontario in 2007 to promote trail use and education, support natural heritage conservation and stewardship, and encourage physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. Already, interest in Trails Open is growing. Up from seven events last year, the program has expanded to more than 20 events in 2008.

An important part of the Trust's efforts to promote both programs is in-market distribution of the *Doors Open Ontario Guide*, which includes information on Trails Open Ontario. As part of its media sponsorship of the Doors Open and Trails Open programs, *The Globe and Mail* distributed 195,000 copies of this year's guide in its Ontario edition on April 17.

Thank you to *The Globe and Mail* for their enthusiastic support of Doors Open Ontario and Trails Open Ontario. Both programs provide unique visitor experiences that celebrate heritage, support conservation and benefit local economies.

For information on Doors Open Ontario, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca. To learn more about Trails Open Ontario, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Photos: Tessa J. Buchan

Left to right: Ontario Heritage Trust Board members Scott Hand and Dawn Bennett; The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman; Stephen Lewis and Richard Moorhouse, Executive Director of the Trust

An Evening with Stephen Lewis

In Support of Heritage Conservation

An enthusiastic crowd of 500 was on hand on January 21, 2008, to welcome Stephen Lewis as he delivered a spirited, witty and engaging lecture entitled "Tomorrow's Past Matters: Investing in Heritage and Enriching Democracy." Mr. Lewis spoke passionately about the impact of an appreciation of heritage on society, both in Canada and around the world, and stressed that involvement in heritage conservation is a "moral imperative."

The lecture was a fundraiser for the Ontario Heritage Trust, with proceeds earmarked for the Lincoln M. Alexander Legacy Fund. Guests included The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture, and our Chairman, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander. Among the audience were many familiar faces from the heritage community, as well as a number of people new to the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre and the work of the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Mr. Alexander was greeted by a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday," as he celebrated his 86th birthday with our guests. He invited everyone to his 100th birthday party, which he indicated will also take place on the stage of the Winter Garden, in January 2022.

The successful evening would not have been possible without our corporate sponsors, Chubb Insurance, TD Canada Trust and Ticketmaster; our media sponsor, the *Toronto Sun;* and donors Scott and Ellen Hand, and Bryan Davies and Andra Takacs.

We also owe a huge thank you to our four caterers – 10tation Event Catering, Amazing Food Service, Daniel et Daniel Event Creation & Catering and en Ville Event Design and Catering – who were supported by Exclusive Affair Rentals and Core Event Staff. These four caterers serve the Trust's Toronto conference and event facilities. Weddings, receptions, conferences, business meetings and social events benefit year-round from their wonderful food and professional event management, but they outdid themselves the evening of the lecture. Each created a special, and unique, dessert for our guests to sample – and were happy to serve seconds (and thirds!).

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening. Your ongoing commitment to the Trust supports us in our work to protect Ontario's irreplaceable natural, built and cultural heritage.

Remembering Dr. Margaret Angus

Over the years, the Ontario Heritage Trust has been the beneficiary of the dedication, expertise and generosity of several special individuals. Margaret Angus was one of those people.

Beginning in 1975, with the proclamation of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (1974), Dr. Angus served six years on the Trust's Board of Directors, helping the organization through its early, formative years.

Born in Montana, she accompanied her husband, Professor William Angus, to Kingston in 1937. There, she fell in love with the city, its history, architecture and culture.

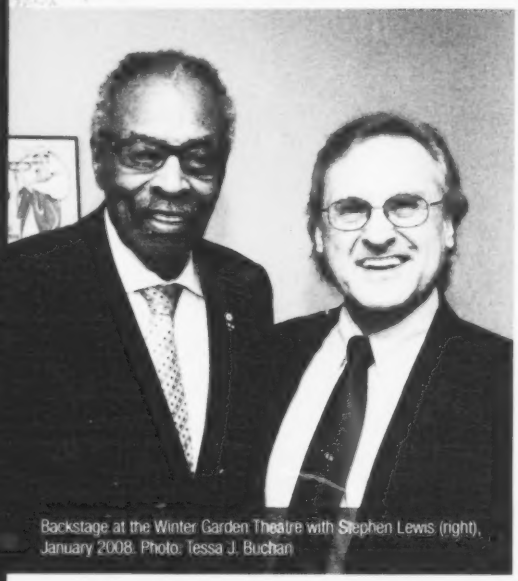
A noted author, she published *The Old Stones of Kingston,* which remains the definitive work on the city. Other works include *The Story of Bellevue House, The History of Kingston General Hospital, John A. Lived Here, The Biography of Dr. Alexander Sharp* and *The Old Stones of Queen's.*

Dr. Angus became a Canadian citizen in the 1960s. She served on the Ontario Historic Sites Board (1969-71), the Ontario Geographic Names Board (1971-73), the Heritage Canada Foundation (1974-79), and as President of the Ontario Historical Society from 1972 to 1974.

In 2004, the Trust thanked Dr. Angus for her contributions with a Heritage Community Recognition Program award for Lifetime Achievement. Among other honours, she was a member of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Kingston Historical Society Award, and a special Award of Merit from the Ontario Historical Society.

Dr. Angus died on February 15, 2008, in her 100th year. Thousands benefited from her dedication to preserving the history of Ontario and Canada. At the Ontario Heritage Trust, we will particularly remember her for her generosity, passion and wisdom.

Message from the Chairman



Backstage at the Winter Garden Theatre with Stephen Lewis (right), January 2008. Photo: Tessa J. Buchan

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George Brown House during Doors Open Toronto

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The successful evening would not have been possible without our corporate sponsors, Chubb Insurance, TD Canada Trust and Ticketmaster; our media sponsor, the *Toronto Sun;* and donors Scott and Ellen Hand, and Bryan Davies and Andra Takacs.

We also owe a huge thank you to our four caterers – 10tation Event Catering, Amazing Food Service, Daniel et Daniel Event Creation & Catering and en Ville Event Design and Catering – who were supported by Exclusive Affair Rentals and Core Event Staff. These four caterers serve the Trust's Toronto conference and event facilities. Weddings, receptions, conferences, business meetings and social events benefit year-round from their wonderful food and professional event management, but they outdid themselves the evening of the lecture. Each created a special, and unique, dessert for our guests to sample – and were happy to serve seconds (and thirds!).

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening. Your ongoing commitment to the Trust supports us in our work to protect Ontario's irreplaceable natural, built and cultural heritage.

Remembering Dr. Margaret Angus

Over the years, the Ontario Heritage Trust has been the beneficiary of the dedication, expertise and generosity of several special individuals. Margaret Angus was one of those people.

Beginning in 1975, with the proclamation of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (1974), Dr. Angus served six years on the Trust's Board of Directors, helping the organization through its early, formative years.

Born in Montana, she accompanied her husband, Professor William Angus, to Kingston in 1937. There, she fell in love with the city, its history, architecture and culture.

A noted author, she published *The Old Stones of Kingston,* which remains the definitive work on the city. Other works include *The Story of Bellevue House, The History of Kingston General Hospital, John A. Lived Here, The Biography of Dr. Alexander Sharp* and *The Old Stones of Queen's.*

Dr. Angus became a Canadian citizen in the 1960s. She served on the Ontario Historic Sites Board (1969-71), the Ontario Geographic Names Board (1971-73), the Heritage Canada Foundation (1974-79), and as President of the Ontario Historical Society from 1972 to 1974.

In 2004, the Trust thanked Dr. Angus for her contributions with a Heritage Community Recognition Program award for Lifetime Achievement. Among other honours, she was a member of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Kingston Historical Society Award, and a special Award of Merit from the Ontario Historical Society.

Dr. Angus died on February 15, 2008, in her 100th year. Thousands benefited from her dedication to preserving the history of Ontario and Canada. At the Ontario Heritage Trust, we will particularly remember her for her generosity, passion and wisdom.

Donations

Our sincere thanks to all those who generously donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust between July 1, 2007, and March 31, 2008. Your support enables the Trust to continue in our work to identify, preserve, protect and promote Ontario's heritage for present and future generations. We also recognize the contributions of our clients and patrons at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre in Toronto and at the Trust's conference and reception venues. The members of the Trust's Board of Directors, former members of the Board, staff, volunteers, foundations, corporations and other supporters of heritage who responded generously to our request for donations were:

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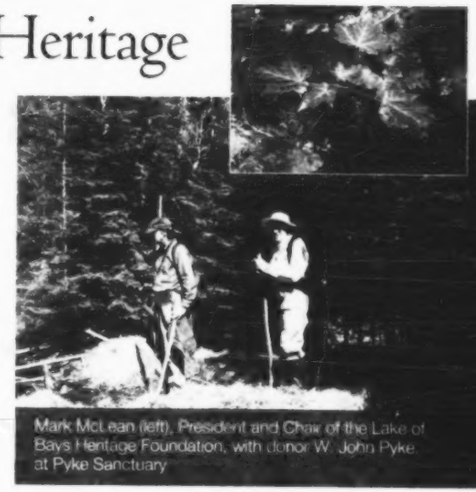

Mark McLean (left), President and Chair of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, with donor W. John Pyke at Pyke Sanctuary

Through the generosity of donors such as W. John Pyke, the Trust holds a large portfolio of natural heritage sites on behalf of the people of Ontario. The Trust's local stewards facilitate caring for these properties.

The 40-hectare (100-acre) Pyke Sanctuary, which the Trust received in August 2007, is a biologically diverse wilderness property in the Township of the Lake of Bays. The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation is the Trust's partner in stewarding this site. Mr. Pyke has a strong continuing love for the land. He will enjoy lifelong right of access.

The Pyke Sanctuary was originally settled in 1874, but because of its shallow topsoil was abandoned 50 years later. The cleared uplands, broken by Precambrian outcrops, are now a beech-hemlock forest. The valleys contain cedar bogs and beaver ponds. While eastern white pine was removed in the 1800s, giant forked pine remain as old growth remnants.

The Pyke Sanctuary is located within the area of interest of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation. This local land trust, instrumental in securing the Boothby property for the Trust in 2004, offered to be the Trust's steward for the Pyke Sanctuary. A 25-year Stewardship Agreement, renewable for an additional 25 years, and an accompanying Stewardship Plan, has just been signed between the Trust and the Foundation outlining responsibilities for the care of the property. Seasonal hikes are planned in 2008 by the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation to inventory the species on the Pyke Sanctuary.

The Trust is grateful to Mr. Pyke for his vision and leadership in ensuring that the Pyke Sanctuary is conserved for future generations.

Donor Rejuvenates Garden at Inge-Va

Built in 1823, Inge-Va is a late-Georgian stone residence located in the heart of Perth. When it changed hands in the 1890s, it was named "Inge-Va" – a Tamil word meaning "come here." In 1974, the property was donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust. The Trust completed a major restoration of the house in 1995 following extensive research on its history.

The garden at Inge-Va is a good example of "living heritage." Many of the trees date to the 1860s and some of the plants are descendents from the 1890s garden, such as the self-seeding lupines and possibly the Old English roses. Over the years, the garden matured and nature took its course: the flower beds became overgrown and some of the trees reached the end of their lives.

In 2007, the Ontario Heritage Trust completed a multi-year garden rejuvenation program at Inge-Va. Existing trees were trimmed, new trees planted, perennials were subdivided and heritage varieties introduced. Throughout this work, the Trust paid special attention to maintaining the heritage character of the landscape. The original tree planting layout was preserved as was the English Cottage garden style of the flower beds.

The garden conservation project was made possible through a generous donation from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. This donation also spurred the Town of Perth to provide the assistance of one of its own gardeners to work on the project.

The ongoing care and operation of the site is the responsibility of a dedicated group of volunteers, the Inge-Va Board of Management. Chairman Sam Kingdon led his group as they toiled countless hours alongside the volunteers from the Perth Horticultural Society and returned the garden to its former glory.

The Ontario Heritage Trust gratefully acknowledges the many volunteers involved for their selfless contribution, the assistance of the Town of Perth, as well as the generous funding that made this garden conservation project a resounding success.

Inge-Va is open for tours by appointment. Call 613-267-6237 for information.

Three Ways to Give:

Planned Giving, Life Insurance and Securities

The Ontario Heritage Trust works diligently on behalf of the people of Ontario to preserve Ontario's built, cultural and natural heritage. There are many ways donors can help to support our work – whether through in-kind donations, financial contributions or gifts of property.

Making a bequest or planned gift, which can play a key role in strengthening the ability of the Trust to protect our heritage in the future, is another option to consider. "Planned" or "deferred" giving enables you to arrange contributions to the Trust in a manner that best suits your personal objectives. These kinds of contributions are called planned gifts because they often form an integral part of financial or estate planning. They are also known as deferred gifts because, even though they are arranged today, they are not realized until sometime in the future. Our Chairman, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, and many others have chosen to support the Trust in this way. When you make this kind of gift, your estate receives a donation receipt for the full amount of the bequest, which may assist in reducing the tax payable on your final income tax return.

Another affordable way to support the important work of the Trust is to make a gift of life insurance, which also provides tax relief during your lifetime or to your estate upon death. If, during your lifetime, you make the Trust the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you are entitled to a donation receipt for the annual premium payments.

In addition, since May 2006, gifts of appreciated publicly listed securities to organizations such as the Trust are exempt from any capital gains tax. The tax receipt issued reflects full market value of the shares when donated. Publicly traded securities include shares, bonds and options traded on any prescribed stock exchange, as well as mutual funds.

If you are considering the Trust in your estate or tax planning, please notify us so that we may formally recognize you. If you would like more information about making a planned gift or bequest, please contact the Trust's Manager of Fundraising and Development at 416-325-5025 or e-mail donations@heritagetrust.on.ca.

We would love to have you as our partner in preserving Ontario's heritage.

Foundation Supports Homewood Opening

Homewood Museum, located between Maitland and Prescott in eastern Ontario, is a National Historic Site and one of the oldest surviving houses in Ontario. In 1974, it was donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The house was built in 1799 by Dr. Solomon Jones, a Loyalist. He was the area's first physician and the second member from Leeds County to be elected to the Parliament of Upper Canada. The large two-storey Georgian-style stone house was constructed by Montreal mason Louis Brière and features a typical Georgian interior with four rooms down, four rooms up, paired on either side of a central hall. The Jones family resided continuously at Homewood for 170 years.

Since 2005, the Earl B. Connell Foundation has sponsored the opening of Homewood for the summer season. The Foundation's support also funds the employment of students who provide guided tours of the museum and grounds. A highlight of each season is Family Day in July, a special event featuring interactive activities and entertainment.

The Trust is grateful to the Earl B. Connell Foundation for its assistance in opening Homewood – an important part of Ontario's rich and varied heritage. The Foundation's support has helped to share the history of seven generations of the Jones family during their lives in this historic home.

Homewood Museum is open in 2008 from early June to Labour Day, Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call 613-498-3003 or e-mail homewood@heritagetrust.on.ca.

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For more information about the Trust or how to make a donation, contact: Ontario Heritage Trust, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 1J3
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Ontario

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Ontario

THE COBALT HISTORIC MINING DISTRICT – A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

By Sean Fraser

1907 Right of Way Mine with growing community in background.

At the turn of the 20th century, Cobalt was a small and isolated lumber camp. In August 1903, two lumbermen – James McKinley and Ernest Darragh – were seeking timber to be used on the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway construction when they found an outcrop of silver in the surface rocks adjacent to Long Lake. This accidental discovery set in motion one of the most intensive mining rushes in Ontario's history.

The area around the town held some of the richest deposits of native silver the world has ever seen. In the years following the initial discovery, Cobalt silver transformed the provincial and national economies. This success drove exploration and development of mineral deposits in northern Ontario and across Canada for decades to follow. In nearby Haileybury, a Millionaire's Row sprouted on the shore of Lake Temiskaming where mine owners and managers built opulent mansions with their new-found wealth. But, by the late 1920s, the silver rush had run its course. Silver production slowed in the Tri-Town area (Haileybury, New Liskeard and Cobalt), leading to a decline in prosperity. At its peak, Cobalt had 6,000 inhabitants. Today, the population is approximately 1,200.

Cobalt was quick to recognize its unique heritage. In 1967, the Ontario Heritage Trust erected a provincial plaque to the Cobalt Mining Camp. The lakeside gateway to Cobalt – the former railway station – houses the Cobalt Visitor Centre and the Bunker Museum. It has been designated a heritage property since 1979, and is also protected by a Trust conservation easement. Begun in 1985 – with support from the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines – a tourist route known as the Silver Trail winds its way in and around the town. This self-guided tour starts at the Northern Ontario Mining Museum, leading visitors past a number of fascinating industrial heritage sites.

In 2002, the Government of Canada designated the Cobalt Mining District as the first National Historic District in Ontario. The district's heritage value is described by Parks Canada as "a rare cultural landscape possessing a large number of vestiges and buildings directly relating to the evolution of the hard rock mining process of the early 20th century in Canada." In 2001, as national designation was being considered, TVOntario declared Cobalt "Ontario's Most Historic Town."

Today, the challenges facing Cobalt are many, but so too are its opportunities. In 2007, with support from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and Fednor, the Historic Cobalt Corporation was formed to help manage and organize a community approach to the historic district. The vision of the Corporation is to operate historic Cobalt as a major, world-class heritage destination, successfully attracting guests from around the world and operating on a self-sufficient basis. By combining preservation with renewal, and tourism with prudent community planning, Cobalt is finding new value for its historic mining legacy.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Conservation Services with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

For more information about the Historic Cobalt Corporation, visit www.historiccobalt.com.

Northern icons

By Romas Bubelis

The towering McIntyre Mine Headframe in Timmins. The Clergue Block House and Powder Magazine in Sault Ste Marie. St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island. The former Kenora Land Titles Office. Thanks to the leadership of municipalities and local heritage groups – and with financial assistance from the Trust's Heritage Challenge Fund – these and other heritage buildings of the north have been preserved for future generations of Ontarians.

The McIntyre Headframe in Timmins was built in 1911 and belongs to one of the oldest mines of the Porcupine gold camp. It was built strictly for utility, but over the years accrued symbolic value as an example of industrial heritage and one of the few remaining such structures in Timmins. Its chiselled silhouette on the horizon remains one of the community's most visible landmarks, marking the entry to the McIntyre gold mine that was once the source of the community's economic lifeblood.

Sault Ste. Marie's Clergue Block House is a composite log-and-stone structure incorporating the 1819 stone powder magazine of the North West Fur Company, built when Sault Ste. Marie was a small, remote fur trading post. This very early stone structure is now part of the Ermatinger/Clergue National Historic Site.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island was constructed by parishioners in 1932 at the height of the Great Depression. Timbers were cut from local forests, with stone extracted from a nearby quarry. This small stone church in the Norman style is renowned for its collection of religious artifacts and fragments from religious structures in England, including a large stone from Canterbury Cathedral. Assistance from the Heritage Challenge Fund helped with the general repair and restoration of stonework and the provision of barrier-free access for this unique place of worship.

Kenora's elegant 1911 Edwardian Classical-style Land Titles Office, located beside the District Courthouse of the same period, has been preserved and now serves as a community centre.

These are among the often under-appreciated architectural icons that are a record of the founding impulse of many of Ontario's northern communities. They speak variously of the pivotal role of the fur trade in settling the north, of outposts and garrisons, of the enduring importance of mining and resources extraction and the critical supporting role of the railways in binding isolated communities together. They are remnants of the earliest infrastructure that supported the development of communities carved out of the wilderness. They impart a sense of the founding period's urgency, vigour and ambition.

Ottawa has the Parliament Buildings. Toronto can look toward Fort York. Kenora, Sault Ste. Marie, Mindemoya and Timmins – and other northern Ontario communities that practise architectural preservation – also hear the echo of their beginnings.

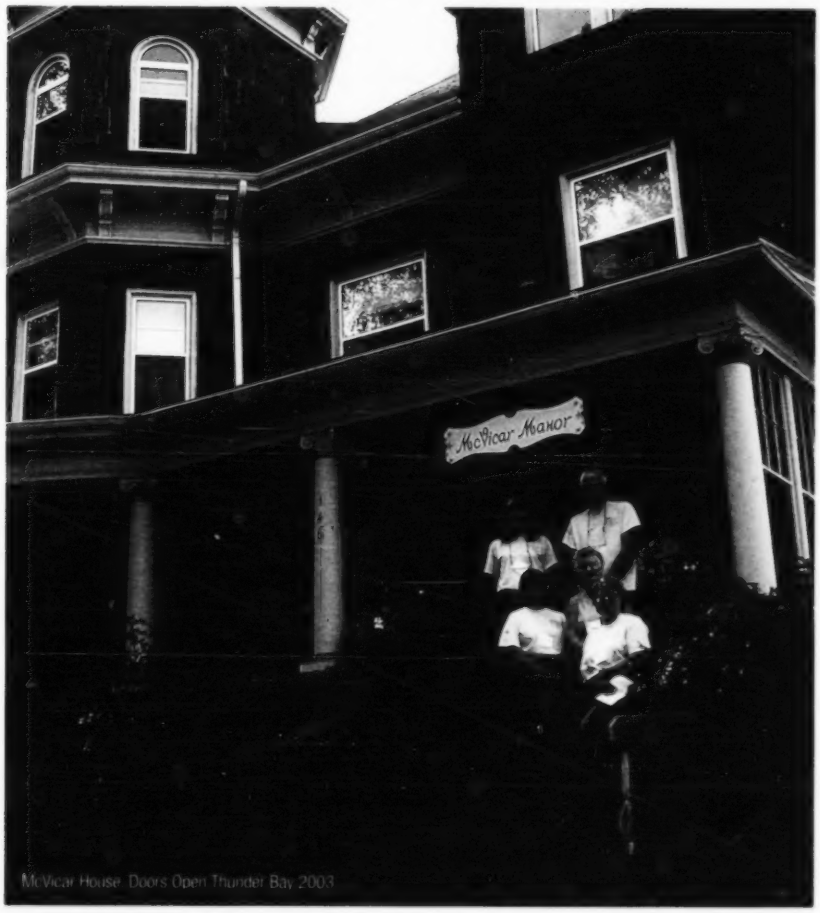
McIntyre Mine Headframe, Timmins

Romas Bubelis is an Architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The $5-million Heritage Challenge Fund Community Program was established in 1999 by the Government of Ontario. It was administered by the Ontario Heritage Trust for community capital restoration projects and endowment funds. Heritage organizations across the province who applied for this funding raised matching dollars. All funds were allocated by April 2001.

Opening doors to the north

By Michael Sawchuck



McVicar House, Doors Open Thunder Bay 2003

Northern Ontario communities continue to play a major role in shaping and defining Doors Open Ontario, adding distinctiveness and adventure to the program. In return, participation in Doors Open provides a direct gateway to the north for tourists wishing to explore this vast and picturesque area of the province. Nearly 20 Doors Open events have been held in northern Ontario since the launch of the program in 2002, including events in each of the "big six" communities of Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins and Kenora.

Past Doors Open events in the north

2002 – Parry Sound, Red Lake, Tri-Towns (New Liskeard, Haileybury, Cobalt)
2003 – Greater Sudbury, Red Lake, Thunder Bay
2004 – Kenora, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay
2005 – Kenora, Thunder Bay
2006 – Dryden, Thunder Bay
2007 – North Bay, Timmins
2008 – Greater Sudbury, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Timmins

In 2008, four northern communities – Greater Sudbury, Kenora, Thunder Bay and Timmins – will open the doors to sites of historic, architectural, natural or cultural significance through free Doors Open events. The rich and varied histories of communities in the north allow for Doors Open events that are distinctive from those in other regions of the province. While each event incorporates an array of site types, each also maintains a unique identity by featuring sites that are central to its history.

- This year's **Doors Open Greater Sudbury event** (July 18-19) features numerous sites that showcase the community's cultural diversity. Aboriginal and francophone heritage sites will be opened, as well as others that are central to the Finnish, Greek, Jewish and Ukrainian communities. Examples of such sites include: Finlandia Village, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue and Attanka Gardens.

- **Doors Open Kenora** (September 12-13) will highlight several residences, many of which were built for the community's most prominent inhabitants. One of these residences is Mather-Walls House, a Queen Anne-style home now owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and managed by the Lake of the Woods Historical Society.

- **Doors Open Thunder Bay** (September 13) – now in its fifth year – will incorporate several of the community's most renowned civic and institutional structures. Included in this event will be a library, a high school, a former police station and an 18th-century fountain.

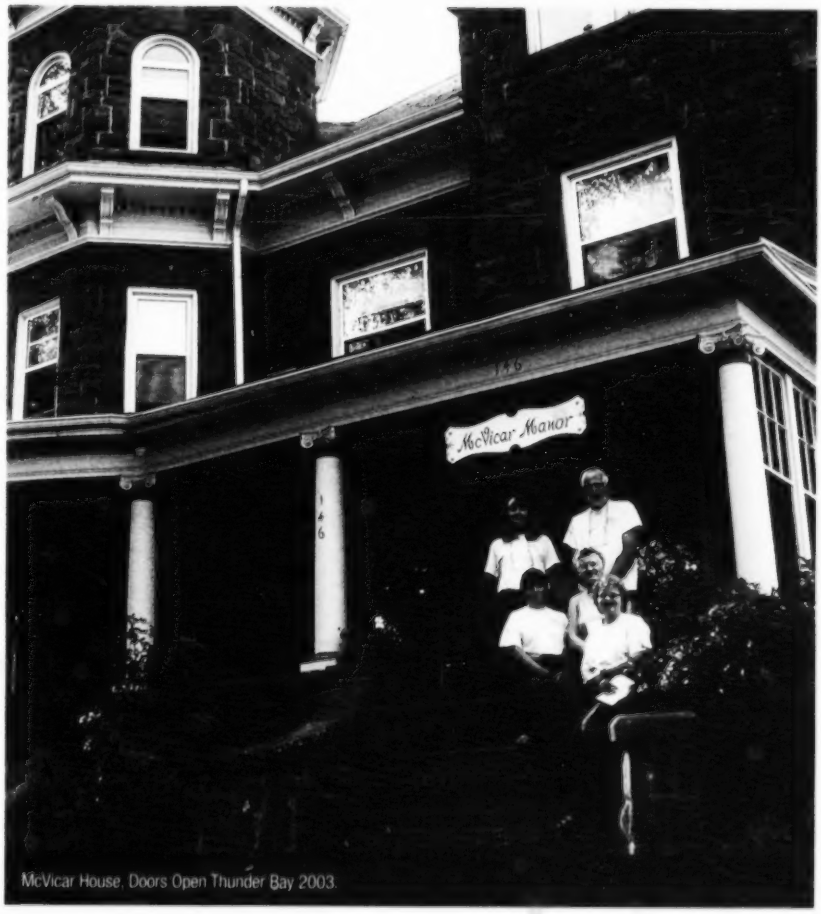
- **Doors Open Timmins** (September 13) provides an opportunity to explore the city's mining heritage through two of its historic gold mines – the Hollinger and McIntyre Mines. McIntyre Lodge – a retreat for mining executives visiting the area – and McIntyre Arena – built for use by mine employees – will also be open.

Doors Open Ontario is just one of many Trust-led initiatives aimed at growing the collective consciousness of heritage conservation across the province. Other programs – such as the Heritage Community Recognition Program, Young Heritage Leaders, the Provincial Plaque Program and Trails Open Ontario – also help strengthen the futures of communities throughout Ontario by investing in the resources of their past.

Michael Sawchuck is a Community Programs Officer for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Opening doors to the north

By Michael Sawchuck



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2003 – Greater Sudbury, Red Lake, Thunder Bay
2004 – Kenora, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay
2005 – Kenora, Thunder Bay
2006 – Dryden, Thunder Bay
2007 – North Bay, Timmins
2008 – Greater Sudbury, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Timmins

In 2008, four northern communities – Greater Sudbury, Kenora, Thunder Bay and Timmins – will open the doors to sites of historic, architectural, natural or cultural significance through free Doors Open events. The rich and varied histories of communities in the north allow for Doors Open events that are distinctive from those in other regions of the province. While each event incorporates an array of site types, each also maintains a unique identity by featuring sites that are central to its history.

- This year's **Doors Open Greater Sudbury event** (July 18-19) features numerous sites that showcase the community's cultural diversity. Aboriginal and francophone heritage sites will be opened, as well as others that are central to the Finnish, Greek, Jewish and Ukrainian communities. Examples of such sites include: Finlandia Village, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue and Altanka Gardens.

- **Doors Open Kenora** (September 12-13) will highlight several residences, many of which were built for the community's most prominent inhabitants. One of these residences is Mather-Walls House, a Queen Anne-style home now owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and managed by the Lake of the Woods Historical Society.

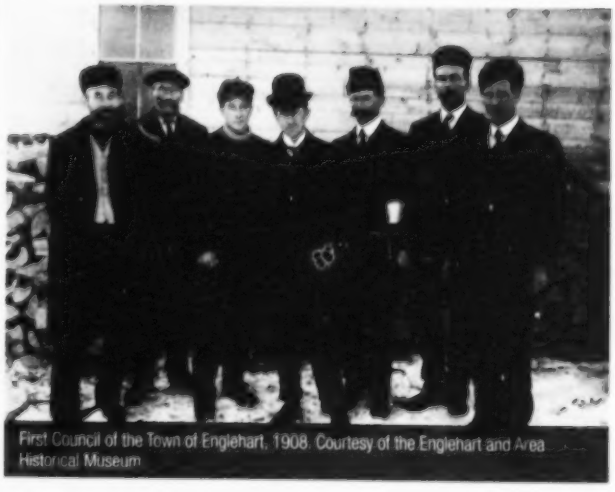
- **Doors Open Thunder Bay** (September 13) – now in its fifth year – will incorporate several of the community's most renowned civic and institutional structures. Included in this event will be a library, a high school, a former police station and an 18th-century fountain.

- **Doors Open Timmins** (September 13) provides an opportunity to explore the city's mining heritage through two of its historic gold mines – the Hollinger and McIntyre Mines. McIntyre Lodge – a retreat for mining executives visiting the area – and McIntyre Arena – built for use by mine employees – will also be open.

Doors Open Ontario is just one of many Trust-led initiatives aimed at growing the collective consciousness of heritage conservation across the province. Other programs – such as the Heritage Community Recognition Program, Young Heritage Leaders, the Provincial Plaque Program and Trails Open Ontario – also help strengthen the futures of communities throughout Ontario by investing in the resources of their past.

A season of

Theodore P. Loblaw, 1929. Photo courtesy of Stevenson Farms



First Council of the Town of Englehart, 1908. Courtesy of the Englehart and Area Historical Museum

The Trust's Provincial Plaque Program provides an enduring visual record of Ontario's history, helping it come alive through stories of people, places and events that have shaped the province. This summer, a number of plaques will be unveiled – honouring the innovative spirit of the province's people, the strength of community and Ontario's cultural diversity. Here are some highlights:

- **The Town of Englehart** is a small community in Ontario's northeast, born as the result of a railway. The town formed where the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway crossed the White River (now the Englehart River). In 1905, needing someone capable to push the railway farther north, Premier Sir James Whitney asked prominent businessman Jacob Englehart to run the railway company. Englehart, vice-president and founder of Imperial Oil, accepted the offer and became chairman. He also established a railway division point and post office at the White River crossing, which registered the name of Englehart. The division point allowed the town to become a transportation centre for northeastern Ontario and brought manufacturing and maintenance facilities to the town. Englehart celebrates its centennial this year.

- The **Queen's Bush Black Settlement** is approximately 25 kilometres northwest of present-day Waterloo in the hamlet of Glen Allan. The Queen's Bush was a large clergy reserve within which a black settlement was formed in the 1830s. The land was not surveyed, roads were non-existent and the settlers made their living through subsistence agriculture. By 1840, the African Methodist Episcopal Church opened and the settlement eventually contained four churches and two schools. In 1842, the government opened the Queen's Bush for government-sanctioned settlement, but surveys ignored existing homesteads. Many black settlers had difficulty finding the money to buy their land, livestock and farming equipment. Despite this, descendants of the original settlers remained in the area until the 1990s.

- The small town of **Mattawa,** at the confluence of the Mattawa and Ottawa rivers, saw its first permanent settlers in 1837 when the Hudson's Bay Company established a fur trading post there. As fur trade activity declined, Mattawa became a centre for the forestry industry. A transient population of more than 2,000 lumberjacks was the result of this booming industry. The town experienced a population surge, however, when the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was built through Mattawa and points west. In 1880, more than 4,000 men were working on the railway in the area, nearly half of whom were French-Canadian. Though living and working conditions were difficult, almost half of these workers settled in Mattawa after the completion of the railway through the town. The CPR's construction contributed greatly to the birth and growth of many towns in the area. More importantly, opportunities presented by the construction of the railway attracted many French-Canadians, who have left an enduring cultural impression on the communities of the region.

There are nearly 140 provincial plaques throughout northern Ontario – including Grey Owl, Henry Hudson and the Search for the Northwest Passage, The Brent Crater and many other people, places and events. For more information on the Provincial Plaque Program – or to explore the interactive Online Plaque Guide – visit **www.heritagetrust.on.ca.**

unveilings

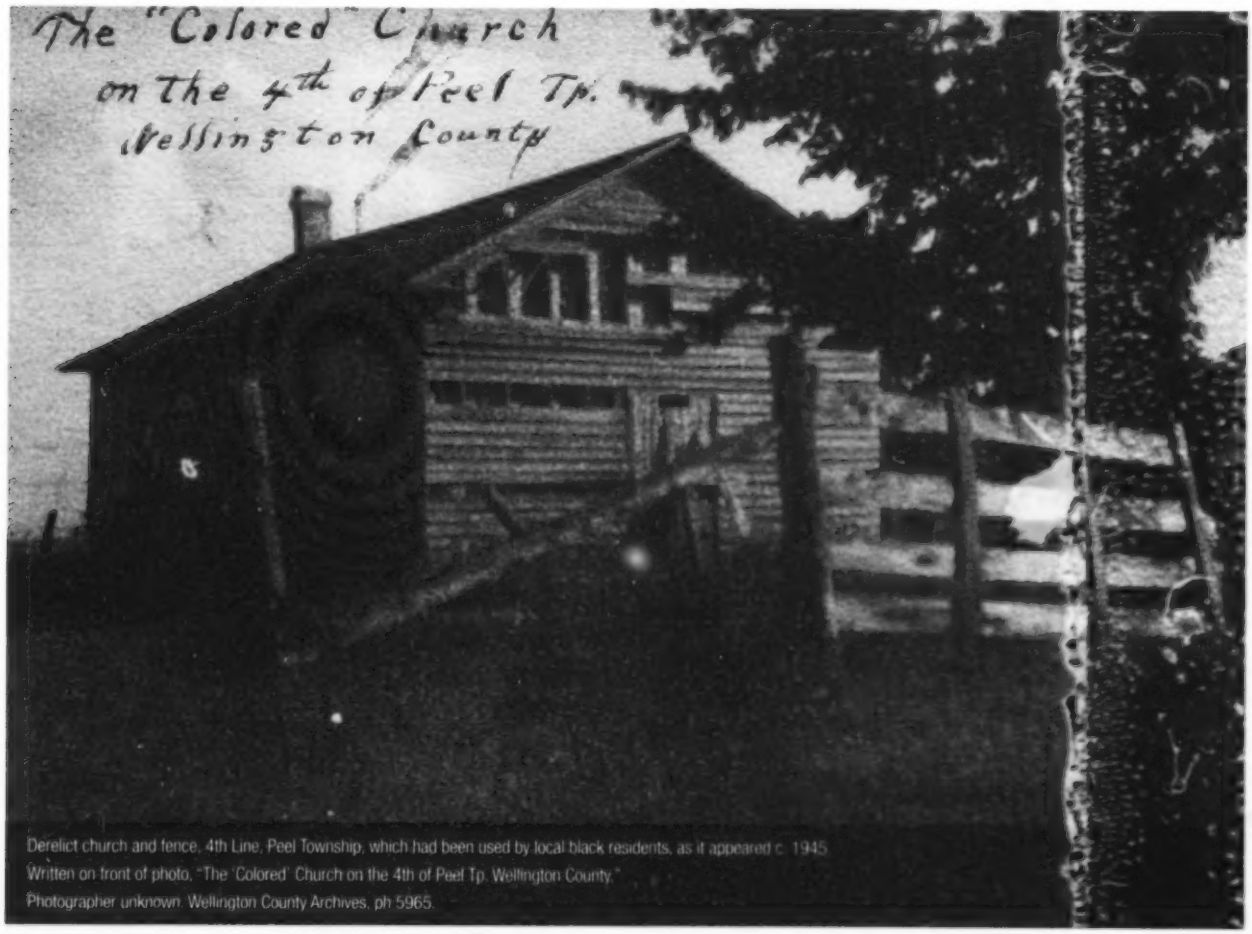
By Joel Swagerman

- As the co-founder of what was to become a grocery supermarket empire, **Theodore Pringle Loblaw** left an enduring impression on the retail industry in Canada. While still a young boy, Theodore lost both his parents and lived for two years with his grandparents. He moved to Toronto at the age of 17, dreaming of becoming the next Timothy Eaton. In fact, he worked briefly at Eaton's and then in a downtown grocery store where he met Milton Cork. By 1919, he had opened 19 traditional-style grocery stores in Toronto. In the same year, Loblaw and his new business partner, Milton Cork, established one of the first self-serve groceterias in Canada. The company, of which Loblaw was president, would grow exponentially. After only a decade, there were 95 Loblaws stores in Ontario. Loblaw introduced many innovations in the grocery industry and, as a result, Loblaw Companies is now one of Canada's largest food distributors and retailers.

Joel Swagerman is a Heritage Programs Assistant with the Ontario Heritage Trust. He is on a co-op placement from the University of Waterloo.

2008 provincial plaque unveilings

- The Provincial Freeman newspaper – Chatham
- Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott – Toronto
- Pembroke Courthouse – Pembroke
- The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Mattawa – Mattawa
- Jeanne Lajoie – Pembroke
- Founding of Englehart – Englehart
- Queen's Bush Black Settlement – Glen Allan (Wellington County)
- Theodore P. Loblaw – Alliston
- Paroisse Sacré-Coeur – Toronto
- Jean Lumb – Toronto



Derelict church and fence, 4th Line, Peel Township, which had been used by local black residents, as it appeared c. 1945.
Written on front of photo, "The 'Colored' Church on the 4th of Peel Tp. Wellington County."
Photographer unknown. Wellington County Archives, ph 5965.

Ontario Heritage Trust celebrates Heritage Week 2008

By Liane Nowosielski

Hamilton's century-old Scottish Rite Club served as an ideal backdrop for the February 15 launch of Heritage Week 2008. This year's theme – Engaging citizens in community conservation – provided an opportunity to showcase conservation success stories and to demonstrate the resources available to those involved in heritage conservation in communities across Ontario.

The Trust, with the City of Hamilton, kicked off the celebrations with the unveiling of a provincial plaque to commemorate the city's early black community. The plaque was unveiled by The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Ontario Minister of Culture and The Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Janine Fernandes was the 2007 individual award and scholarship recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement.
Photo courtesy of Tessa J. Buchan

The week's events continued with the presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards on February 21. Established in 2007, these special awards honour outstanding achievements by volunteers to preserve, protect and promote Ontario's heritage. They are administered through the Trust's annual Young Heritage Leaders and Heritage Community Recognition programs.

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life are proud sponsors of the Young Heritage Leaders program.

Whether through demonstrating leadership in the protection of built or natural heritage, fundraising or creating local history publications, the dedication and hard work of these volunteers are instrumental in keeping the province's heritage alive and meaningful.

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement recognizes individuals for volunteer contributions to conserving community heritage over a period of 25 years or more. One individual and three groups are recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement, for exceptional voluntary contributions by young people to heritage conservation.

The Trust thanks Lieutenant Governor David C. Onley for his commitment in honouring the achievements of volunteers involved in heritage preservation activities.

The events of Heritage Week 2008 are a clear testament to ongoing citizen involvement and dedication to community heritage conservation in Ontario.

Liane Nowosielski is a Marketing and Communications Specialist with the Ontario Heritage Trust. She joins the Trust as an intern with the Ontario Internship Program.

2007 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement:

- Julia Beck, City of London
- Robert Cardwell, City of Kingston
- Charles Fairbank, Lambton County
- Dr. Grant Head, City of Hamilton
- Marion Holman, Regional Municipality of Niagara
- James Holmes, City of Mississauga
- Alice Hughes, Village of Merrickville-Wolford
- J. Peter Hvidsten, Township of Scugog
- Patricia Malicki, City of Windsor
- Nena Marsden, Town of Georgina
- Sally Martyn, Municipality of Central Elgin
- Fay McClelland, Township of Johnson
- Dr. W. John McIntyre, Town of Aurora
- Wilma Morrison, City of Niagara Falls
- Helen Poulis, Township of King
- Alex Raeburn, Town of Caledon
- Brian Winter, Town of Whitby

Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement:

Individual award and scholarship recipient

- Janine Fernandes, Town of Aurora

Group awards

- Cameron Street Public School Environment Club, Town of Collingwood
- "Wall of Valour" Students, Perth and District Collegiate Institute, Town of Perth
- "We Remember our Fallen WWII Soldiers" Students, Port Perry High School

From the Mather-Walls collection

By Simonette Seon-Milette

The "pay table," handmade by John Walls.

Perched on a hill in the town of Keewatin (now Kenora) stands a majestic Queen-Anne style house known as Mather-Walls House. This cream-and-chocolate-coloured two-storey wood house, built in 1889, has a picturesque roofline, large verandas and numerous windows – some containing brightly coloured glass inserts. The interior is built around a central hall plan. Fine decorative trims and hardware enhance the character of the individual rooms.

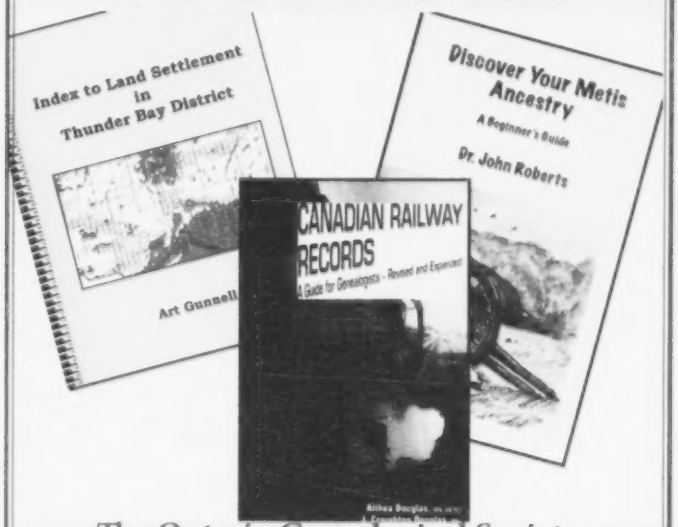
The Ontario Heritage Trust purchased Mather-Walls House and its contents from Margaret Edna Walls in 1975. She was the third child born to John Walls and Elizabeth Link. John Walls purchased the house from the Mather family in 1906. Walls was the foreman for the Keewatin Lumber Company.

The Walls collection is an eclectic blend of 19th- and 20th-century household furnishings, many of which are believed to be from the time the Walls family lived in the house. Of particular interest is a simple, elegant painted pine table handmade by John Walls. According to written accounts, this table was referred to as the "pay table." Mrs. Jean Roy, eldest daughter of John Walls, stated that the mill's pay was carried home by her father in a pail and taken up to a second-floor bedroom where it was placed on the pay table in front of the corner windows. She was responsible for sealing all the pay envelopes and received 10 cents for her work.

Mather-Walls House and its collection are vestiges of the lives lived by two distinct families in northern Ontario. Mather-Walls is operated by the Lake of the Woods Historical Society.

Simonette Seon-Milette is the Cultural Collections Coordinator at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Guides to Northern Records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Our francophone heritage

By Karen Bachmann

St-Antoine-de-Padoue Cathedral, Timmins.
Photos from the collection of the Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre

For more information on the Timmins Museum: NEC, visit www.museumsnorth.org/timmins.

Fauquier. Moonbeam. Kapuskasing. Hearst. Val Gagné. Belle Vallée. Sudbury. Timmins. Sturgeon Falls. The history of northern Ontario cannot be told without looking at the contributions made to the area by Franco-Ontarians.

The French first came to Ontario in 1610, when they chose to explore the Great Lakes basin. Their first permanent settlement occurred in 1701 at Fort Ponchartrain, near Windsor-Detroit. Eastern Ontario development came next and, while many French *coureurs de bois* travelled regularly throughout northern Ontario, a permanent francophone community did not come into being until the settlement of the mid-north areas (North Bay and Sudbury) around 1880. This development happened because of the construction of railway lines and the increased interest in mineral exploration. Once those communities had been organized, it was time to look northward again, and the settlements around Temiskaming opened up the area in the early 1900s. By 1910, anglophone and francophone communities were springing up between Matheson, Cochrane and Hearst, thanks to the Porcupine Gold Rush and the burgeoning lumber industry. It is important to note that today, there are more than 120,000 francophones living and working in northern Ontario and that 22 per cent of Ontarians living in the northeast claim a francophone heritage.

Fortunately for us, there exists a myriad of tangible sites that celebrate the francophone culture in northern Ontario. While there is currently no museum devoted solely to francophone history, we can see this living culture every day in many of our northern communities. This history is notably visible in the local architecture, which includes religious institutions, businesses and local shops, public buildings and industrial sites. Agricultural communities like Val Gagné and Fauquier are practically living history museums in themselves, devoted to both preserving and developing a living francophone culture.

Just such an example of tangible, Franco-Ontarian history can be found in Timmins. St-Antoine-de-Padoue cathedral still graces the hill on Pine Street and continues to be an intricate part of our local heritage. As with many institutions in this community, it was the Hollinger Mine – and more importantly, Noah Timmins, owner of that mine – that saw to the construction of the local hospital and the beginnings of this church. While Father Alexandre Pelletier was responsible for the first small chapel, it would be Father Charles-Eugène Thériault's responsibility to grow the church and see to a new structure. The cornerstone of the new church was blessed by Bishop Latulipe in 1922; the ornate church would unfortunately burn to the ground in 1936. By 1937, the new stone structure, created in a solid Romanesque style, was ready for the community.

The church in Timmins is only one example of francophone culture in northern Ontario. Consider this an open invitation to explore this rich culture in this part of the province!

Karen Bachmann is the Director/Curator of the Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre.

ADVENTUROUS WORKERS WANTED FOR REMOTE LOCATIONS – HOUSING PROVIDED

By Denis Héroux

The exploration, settlement and development of northern Ontario were motivated by the exploitation of the region's natural resources – primarily fur, timber, gold and silver. Typically, these industries were located in remote areas and consequently the founding companies had to build houses for their first employees. Moose Factory, Keewatin and Kirkland Lake all followed this pattern.

Sir Harry Oakes Chateau, Kirkland Lake

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) workers came to Moose Factory from Britain on five-year contracts. They lived in communal quarters in the fort, safe from attacks by their rival, the North West Company. In 1821, the HBC merged with its rival and some of its men had established families with the local Cree women. These circumstances prompted the HBC to build company housing for its workforce, a practice that continued well into the 20th century. The Trust owns two of those houses: the Joseph Turner House (c.1864) and the William McLeod House (1889-90). As with other typical Moose Factory houses, they are built of squared logs covered with horizontal boards, measure 16' x 20' (5 m. x 6 m.) and are 2½ storeys high. The Trust also owns the HBC Staff House, a two-storey log house built in 1850. It originally housed the unmarried company officers – such as accounting clerks, ships' captains and the doctor. All of Moose Factory's residents lived in company-built houses until the 1970s when the company transferred ownership of the houses to the occupants. All have since been demolished except for those saved by the Trust.

Company-built housing was also common in the lumber industry. In 1889, the Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Company built three comfortable two-storey frame houses for its company managers. The Trust now owns one of them – Mather-Walls House in Kenora – which is operated as a house museum by the Lake-of-the-Woods Historical Society. The company also built 12 semi-detached houses and a boarding house for its workforce.

In 1930, mining magnate Sir Harry Oakes built a 12,000-square-foot (1,100-square-meter) home in Kirkland Lake to accommodate the Lake Shore Company directors and his family when attending company business. The house is really a company-built mansion. It has 12 bedrooms, including four for live-in servants. It also features indoor parking for seven cars, a billiard room and separate men's and women's coat rooms with en suite lavatories. Sir Harry Oakes Chateau is owned by the Trust and is operated by the Town of Kirkland Lake as the Museum of Northern History.

All of the Trust's northern Ontario properties can be visited during the summer except for the McLeod House, which is closed for restoration. The Sir Harry Oakes Chateau is open year-round. For more information about the Trust's northern properties, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

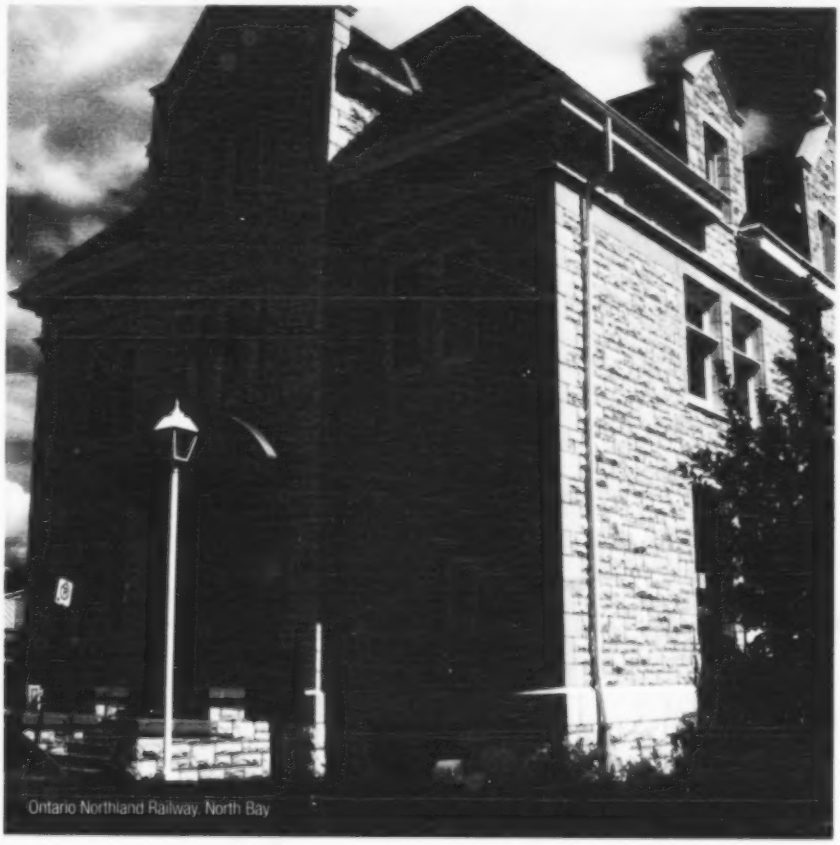
Denis Héroux is a Project Manager, Property Restoration for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

ROUTES THROUGH THE WILDERNESS:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

By Beth Anne Mendes

Isolation, great distances, demanding terrain and difficult weather conditions challenged the fortitude and perseverance of the people who forged water routes, roads, railways and air services through northern Ontario's majestic expanse. Of the nearly 140 provincial plaques in northern Ontario, over 50 commemorate subjects that relate specifically to early northern exploration and the evolution of transportation systems that enabled the development and settlement of this region of the province. Six provincial plaques that pay tribute to these efforts are located along or near Highway 17 – the Trans-Canada Highway. Along this route, from North Bay to Thunder Bay, you can retrace the steps of many who have gone before.

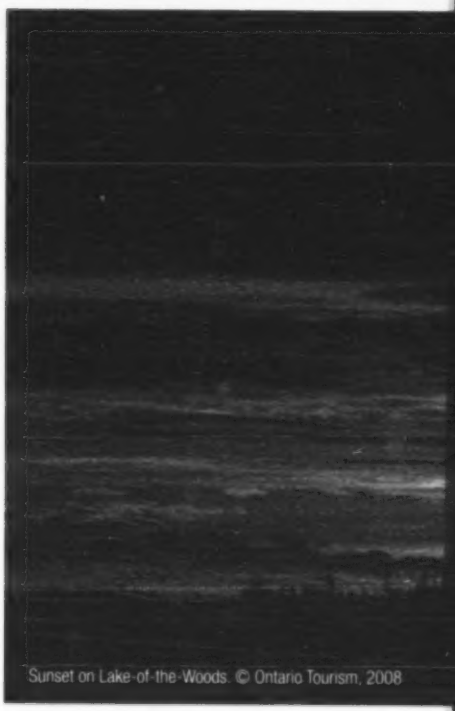


Ontario Northland Railway, North Bay

Toward the end of the 19th century, plans for building a vast transportation network were proposed, which eventually included the construction of a railway that ran directly north from Lake Nipissing to Lake Temiskaming. In 1902, construction began on the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway at North Bay. Work progressed rapidly despite many difficult sections of terrain. By 1908, the main line had reached Cochrane and branch lines were built to other new mining areas. By 1932, this provincially owned railway was extended to Moosonee. In 1946, it was renamed the **Ontario Northland Railway.** The plaque that commemorates this railway is located at the Tourist Information Centre in North Bay.

By the 1920s, much of the north remained inaccessible except by aircraft. Although **Austin Airways** was not the first airline to operate in northern Ontario, it survived the longest and successfully made the transition from bush flying to passenger service. Initially located in Toronto, the company opened a base on Ramsay Lake in Sudbury in 1935; by 1938, Sudbury became its primary base of operations. The airline hauled freight, flew medical evacuations, helped fight forest fires, trained pilots and transported tourists throughout the north. In the 1940s, Austin Airways diversified into other aerial activities. The company was absorbed into Air Ontario in 1987. The plaque to Austin Airways can be found near the Aviation Monument at Science North in Sudbury.

One of the earliest canoe routes through the north closely follows Highway 17. **The Route of the Voyageurs** followed the Ottawa River to its junction with the Mattawa River, went along the Mattawa to Trout Lake, over the arduous La Vase Portage through Lake Nipissing, down the French River and across Georgian Bay and the North Channel to Lakes Michigan and Superior. For two centuries, this route served explorers, missionaries and fur traders intent on opening the interior of North America. The plaque is located at the Swift Current Channel off Highway 6, approximately 15 kilometres north of Little Current.



Sunset on Lake-of-the-Woods. © Ontario Tourism, 2008

In 1962, the **Trans-Canada Highway** – which runs from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia – was officially opened. Nearly 30 per cent of the 7,823-kilometre route is located within Ontario. A provincial plaque to commemorate the highway stands at its halfway point at Chippewa River Park on Highway 17. This section of the Trans-Canada Highway provided a much-needed corridor that connected distant regions of the province. Special mention should also be made here of the Japanese-

Beth Anne Mendes is the Plaque Program Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Japanese-Canadian Road Camps 1942-1944

1873-74 primarily to provide for the delivery of mail between Duluth and Thunder Bay during the winter months when navigation was closed on Lake Superior. The road was used by mail carriers until the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1882. With the arrival of the automobile, a new road to the American border was required. Highway 61 – or Scott Highway – was completed in 1917 and became one of the region's popular scenic routes.

These accounts are just a few of the countless stories of courage and innovation that comprise the incredible heritage of northern Ontario – a wonderful legacy left by the people who travelled, worked and lived in this vast and challenging region of Ontario during its early years of development. Look for these plaques when you journey through the north and discover for yourself the beauty of the landscapes that greeted these tenacious people.

Canadians who were evacuated from coastal British Columbia to assist with the construction of this highway. Although the government stated that the evacuees were not internees, the men lived under strict restrictions and were not permitted to buy or lease property. A plaque entitled **Japanese-Canadian Road Camps 1942-1944** honours their contributions. It stands in the Cenotaph Square in Schreiber.

A plaque in Thunder Bay stands six kilometres west of Kaministiquia River Bridge on Highway 61, which replaced the original **Pigeon River Road.** The plaque tells the story of the road, which was constructed in

. . . the shelf

Waking Nanabijou, Uncovering a Secret Past,
by Jim Poling Sr.

Dundurn Press. A woman from northern Ontario is buried; her earthly papers reveal a mystery. Veteran Canadian journalist Jim Poling took on the most important assignment of his career: Just who was his mother? Why did she take a lifelong secret to her grave?

In his search for clues throughout his childhood years in northern Ontario, the author goes to Chapleau, the railway town where the people he believed were his ancestors played out their roles in building the railway. It ends in the Prairie village of Innisfree, Alberta, home to Joe LaRose, convicted horse thief and father of a girl destined for trouble.

A search that began in anger at his mother's secrecy concludes with an understanding of her actions. In the process, he explores the place of families within Canadian society and reveals the shameful ongoing discrimination against Native Peoples and the abusive treatment of illegitimacy. Throughout, glimpses of working life in newsrooms add insider perspectives on the "handling" of our daily news.

A former Indian Affairs reporter, Poling shares insights into the ongoing plight of Canada's First Nations people. He observes that Canada will never realize its true potential until positive steps are taken to resolve longstanding issues.

. . . at the museum

Red Lake Woodland Arts Festival: *A Tribute to Norval Morrisseau and the Woodland Artists*

Untitled (thunderbird), c. 1960s, acrylic on kraft paper, Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre Collection. © Norval Morrisseau/Gabe Vadas. Courtesy of Kinsman Robeson Galleries, Toronto

The community of Red Lake invites you to its first **Woodland Arts Festival: A Tribute to Norval Morrisseau and the Woodland Artists,** July 4-6, 2008.

The Festival will take you on a special journey as you discover the untold story of the artist's life – from 1959 when he arrived here to work as a gold miner, to when he left the area around 1973, an artist of international calibre.

Through special exhibitions, story-telling, guided walking tours, plays, dance performances and art workshops, the Festival will tell the story of the birth and evolution of the Woodland Art movement in the Red Lake community. Also planned is an art fair, art exhibition, audio-visual presentations and panel discussions.

For more information, visit http://redlakemuseum.com.

The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre: Bushplane Days 2008

The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre in Sault Ste. Marie is dedicated to preserving the history of bush flying and forest protection in Canada.

Bushplane Days 2008 – named one of the Top 100 Festivals in Ontario – will be held on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre waterfront hangar in downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

Activities include chartered flights and more. The main attraction of this festival is a CL-415 (waterbombing aircraft) aerial demonstration by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For more information, visit www.bushplane.com.

NORTHERN ONTARIO: AN AUTHENTIC HERITAGE

By Nicole Guertin and Andréanne Joly

Near Thunder Bay, on the Kaministiquia River, the North West Company is immortalized by the Fort William Historical Park. Photo © Ontario Tourism 2008

Heritage is often associated with the distant past and, for many, a dusty museum.

Northern Ontario, however, is proposing a rejuvenation of its heritage by pairing it with industrialization and the great outdoors: northern Ontario heritage is not limited to the colonization that occurred at the end of the 19th century and start of the 20th century.

Some treasures remain well hidden, lost in the vastness of Ontario's north. For example, the petroglyphs of the Missinaibi Lake, Agawa Rock and Eagle-Dogtooth Provincial Park east of Kenora are witness to thousands of years of presence of the people who shaped our culture. Many of us remember that this vast territory – which accounts for 89 per cent of our province – was populated by more than the European pioneers that settled along the developing transcontinental railway. A quick look at a map is proof. While many Aboriginal communities are no longer here, the names of the rivers have kept their memories alive – Abitibi, Missinaibi, Attawapiskat and Winisk.

French explorers also left their mark. As early as 1611, Étienne Brûlé became the first European to admire the freshwater seas, while crossing the Mattawa River, Lake Nippising, the La Vase Portage and the French River, searching for the great North Sea. Champlain followed in 1615, and discovered a land of infinite beauty.

It was only the beginning of a long saga. In fact, the travels of these intrepid explorers have been commemorated in sites such as the Sturgeon River House Museum, a former trading post for the Hudson's Bay Company. On Lake Temiskaming, a fort reminds us of the long history of the fur trade. Near Thunder Bay, on the Kaministiquia River, the North West Company is immortalized by the Fort William Historical Park. And along the lakes, notably Missinaibi, we find remnants of the distant past. Early sites where the voyageurs and merchants slept under the stars remain exposed, and we still see evidence of their stay.

The heritage that is held with the most esteem in northern Ontario, however, is a more recent one – that of industrialization. Moose Factory shows its most historic form, with the remains of the Hudson's Bay Company. Also, the railroads that travel from north to south – from Sudbury to Manitoba and Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst – journey through landscapes that not only attest to a heritage of industrialization in the form of pulp and paper mills and mines, but also inspired the Group of Seven. Still, along the routes where agriculture and forestry meet we see abandoned barns, treasures that are left vacant by a lack of regard to our heritage.

In short, northern Ontario's heritage is the image of its land: rugged and diverse. Nevertheless, the heritage is still alive and waiting to fill you with wonder. There is still much to discover on our northern frontier.

Nicole Guertin is the Directrice générale for Direction Ontario, an association that offers high-quality tourism services for francophones. Andréanne Joly is a writer with Direction Ontario.

For more information about Direction Ontario, visit www.directionontario.ca. Discover a variety of adventures and tours offered by Direction Ontario, such as the Circuit Champlain and the Circuits des fourrures, or the Lake Temiskaming tour.

NORTHERN ONTARIO: AN AUTHENTIC HERITAGE

By Nicole Guertin and Andréanne Joly

Near Thunder Bay, on the Kaministiquia River, the North West Company is immortalized by the Fort William Historical Park. Photo © Ontario Tourism 2008

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Northern Ontario, however, is proposing a rejuvenation of its heritage by pairing it with industrialization and the great outdoors: northern Ontario heritage is not limited to the colonization that occurred at the end of the 19th century and start of the 20th century.

Some treasures remain well hidden, lost in the vastness of Ontario's north. For example, the petroglyphs of the Missinaibi Lake, Agawa Rock and Eagle-Dogtooth Provincial Park east of Kenora are witness to thousands of years of presence of the people who shaped our culture. Many of us remember that this vast territory – which accounts for 89 per cent of our province – was populated by more than the European pioneers that settled along the developing transcontinental railway. A quick look at a map is proof. While many Aboriginal communities are no longer here, the names of the rivers have kept their memories alive – Abitibi, Missinaibi, Attawapiskat and Winisk.

French explorers also left their mark. As early as 1611, Etienne Brûlé became the first European to admire the freshwater seas, while crossing the Mattawa River, Lake Nipissing, the La Vase Portage and the French River, searching for the great North Sea. Champlain followed in 1615, and discovered a land of infinite beauty.

It was only the beginning of a long saga. In fact, the travels of these intrepid explorers have been commemorated in sites such as the Sturgeon River House Museum, a former trading post for the Hudson's Bay Company. On Lake Temiskaming, a fort reminds us of the long history of the fur trade. Near Thunder Bay, on the Kaministiquia River, the North West Company is immortalized by the Fort William Historical Park. And along the lakes, notably Missinaibi, we find remnants of the distant past. Early sites where the voyageurs and merchants slept under the stars remain exposed, and we still see evidence of their stay.

The heritage that is held with the most esteem in northern Ontario, however, is a more recent one – that of industrialization. Moose Factory shows its most historic form, with the remains of the Hudson's Bay Company. Also, the railroads that travel from north to south – from Sudbury to Manitoba and Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst – journey through landscapes that not only attest to a heritage of industrialization in the form of pulp and paper mills and mines, but also inspired the Group of Seven. Still, along the routes where agriculture and forestry meet we see abandoned barns, treasures that are left vacant by a lack of regard to our heritage.

In short, northern Ontario's heritage is the image of its land: rugged and diverse. Nevertheless, the heritage is still alive and waiting to fill you with wonder. There is still much to discover on our northern frontier.

Nicole Guertin is the Directrice generale for Direction Ontario, an association that offers high-quality tourism services for francophones. Andréanne Joly is a writer with Direction Ontario.

For more information about Direction Ontario, visit www.directionontario.ca. Discover a variety of adventures and tours offered by Direction Ontario, such as the Circuit Champlain and the Circuits des fourrures, or the Lake Temiskaming tour..

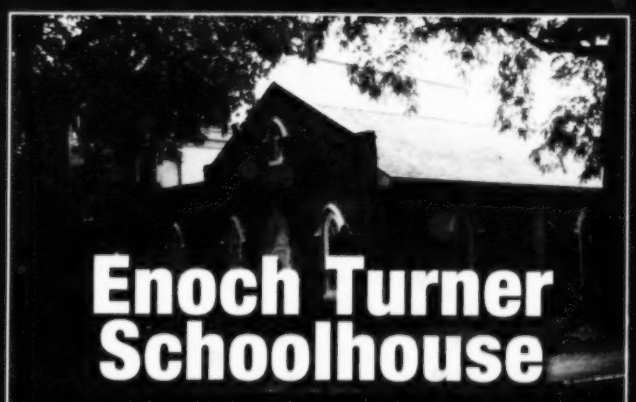
GUEST COLUMNIST

Barnum House
a National Historic Site

When Eliakim Barnum emigrated from the United States in 1807, he settled in Grafton, east of Cobourg. By 1819, Barnum owned over 900 acres (364 hectares) of land, a thriving milling business, a tavern and distillery. He had a stylish house built that stands today as one of Ontario's finest examples of neoclassical architecture.

Visit Barnum House this summer and experience the grandeur of this historic site with guided tours through period rooms. Open from early June to Labour Day. For more information, call 416-325-5000.

Barnum House, Highway 2, Grafton

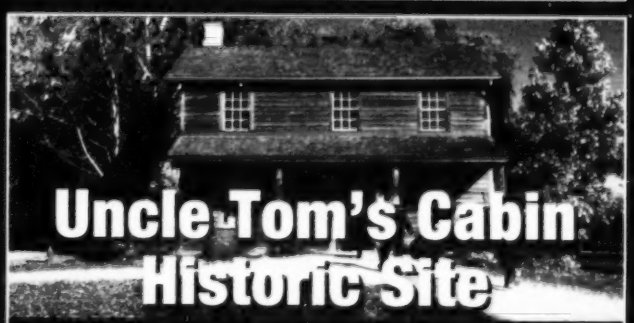


Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

Visit the oldest school still standing in Toronto and experience what education was like in the Victorian era. Established in 1848 by Enoch Turner, a wealthy brewer, this was the first free school in the city. Today, this remarkable schoolhouse is a venue for educational programs, meetings, weddings and receptions.

Open year-round for tours and school visits, and a unique venue for special events.
For more information, call 416-863-0010.

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse
106 Trinity Street, Toronto



Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site

Visit this fascinating site and learn more about Ontario's black heritage. The museum – built on the site of the black settlement that fugitive slave and abolitionist Rev. Josiah Henson helped found in 1841 – preserves the settlement where Henson lived.

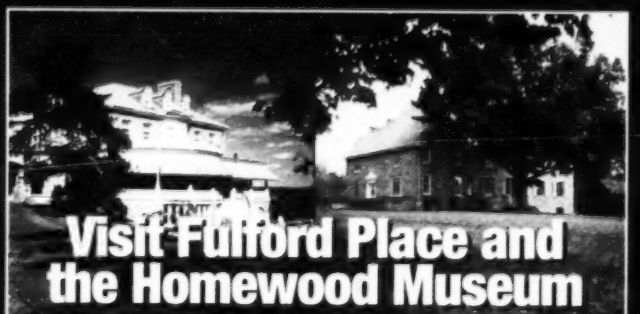
This five-acre site includes an interpretive centre, three historic buildings (including Henson's house), two cemeteries, extensive artifacts and a gift shop.

Open from May 17 to October 31. Special Emancipation Day celebrations Saturday, August 2.

Join us in 2008 as we mark the 125th anniversary of Josiah Henson's death (1883-2008).

For more information, call 519-683-2978 or visit www.uncletomscabin.org.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site
29251 Uncle Tom's Road, Dresden



Visit Fulford Place and the Homewood Museum

Tours of these National Historic Sites are available throughout the summer.

Fulford Place: This 20,000-square-foot, 35-room mansion showcases period rooms and special exhibits. Enjoy this rare glimpse of a gracious lifestyle from another era. Be sure to visit the gift shop.

Fulford Place, 287 King Street East, Brockville

Homewood Museum: Take an informative guided tour of one of Ontario's oldest houses and explore period rooms with original furnishings – from textiles and photographs to porcelain and furniture.

Homewood Museum, Highway 2
between Maitland and Prescott

For more information on touring both sites, call 613-498-3003 or e-mail fulford@heritagetrust.on.ca.